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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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SUBJECT Best Kept Secrets, Part 4

ROD DANIELS: In the real-life spy game, the stakes are of course high: charges of treason, and a life sentence if you're convicted. There's also the [unintelligible] awards. They're very high. They are wealth and power.

The players, those who recruit the spies, live by one major rule: high-powered pressure. They make the pressure so great that people are willing to sell their country's secrets to the enemy.

Rich Hollander looks at how the game is played in part four of his cover story, "Best Kept Secrets."

RICH HOLLANDER: Game. It implies recreation, fun. Sometimes the word is used to describe the psychic tug-of-war between the FBI and the Soviet KGB. It is a war, a war where each side tries to get the players on the other side to commit treason.

Is that the one?

MAN: I hope so.

[Confusion of voices]

MAN: I think the less said the better. But that's the principal operation. That's obviously a principal priority target of this office, is to develop and recruit intelligence agents.

HOLLANDER: A game. Dave Major, one of the nation's top counterintelligence officers, speaks of his adversaries like a

football coach.

DAVE MAJOR: A good intelligence officer is looking for that chip in the man's armor, where the fabric of his life is falling apart, something has gone; and he tries to exploit that situation. If he's a professional intelligence officer, his business or his job is to beat you mentally.

FILM NARRATOR: FBI. Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity. And there's the war map [unintelligible] flagged with the names of special agents and placed where the agents are.

HOLLANDER: Why would someone betray the country of his birth; give up family, friends, career? One thing is for sure. Few defect because they believe in communism.

MAJOR: I think human beings are more complicated than to sit there and say, "I'm going to do it for the betterment of mankind." There's always got to be a rationalization for conducting treason. And that's what you're doing. You're rationalizing treason.

HOLLANDER: Money, revenge, lust, ego. Those are the reasons. That is what Mr. Smith says. He should know. He was a double agent, an employee of the KGB, all the while working for the Americans. Smith, a 37-year-old Army sergeant with top secret clearance, understands the price of treason.

MR. SMITH: In my case, I didn't think I had a price. You know, if you look at the world realistically, even if you are that infatuated with money and if you get involved in this kind of thing, sooner or later you're going to get caught.

HOLLANDER: Why did Smith work on the edge for nearly ten years?

SMITH: Overall, it's a damned good feeling to be the only one that can do this particular thing, to be confident that you can do it, and to know that everything's riding on you. That's a super feeling.

HOLLANDER: What happens if a spy operation goes bad? According to Dave Major of the FBI, the Soviets promise their American agents they can live in Moscow if an operation fails. By contrast, we promise our Soviet spies they can live out their lives in San Diego. As Major says, take your pick.

DANIELS: Rich, this spy game is very intriguing. How do the people, the intelligence people in the United States keep track on the Soviet spies who are on our soil?

3

HOLLANDER: Well, it is hard. In this game of spying, there are very few rules. And yet ours is an open society. And many say that places the FBI at a disadvantage.

We hear more about that tomorrow in part five.